

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, and 6 stand rejected and claims 3-5 and 7-10 are objected to. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3-5 and 7-10. By this Amendment, claims 1-10 have been amended. The amendments to the claims have been to improve the form thereof. In light of the amendments and remarks set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

Applicant notes that the Information Disclosure Statement filed November 18, 2003, was not acknowledged. Applicant requests that the Examiner review the references cited therein, initial and return the 1449 Form. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicant includes the PTO 1449 from the previously submitted IDS.

Applicant notes that the claim for priority was not acknowledged. A claim for priority and submission of priority documents was made along with the initial filing of the present application. A copy of the date-stamped postcard indicating that the claim for priority and priority documents were submitted is attached hereto. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests acknowledgement of the claim for priority and receipt of priority documents.

Claims 1, 2, and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0037718 ("Maehara") in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,852,973 ("Corbett"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant explicitly recites that the pedal link mechanism is connected to the keyboard via the keyboard reinforcing member. This feature is not shown in either of the cited references.

In Mahaera, a pedal link for an upright piano is disclosed. However, the pedal link is not connected to the keyboard via the reinforcing member. That is, Maehara fails to disclose the pedal link mechanism integrated into and fixed to the keyboard reinforcing member. Further, Corbett discloses a keyboard having double registers. That is, one or two keyboards. In Corbett, bracket 134 is attached below the end portion of the front side of a key. This bracket 134 is not the explicitly recited reinforcing member. Thus, Corbett completely fails to teach the above-recited limitations in the pending claims.

As discussed above, the cited combination fails to teach the explicitly recited limitations in the pending claims. One skilled in the art would not combine Maehara and Corbett to arrive at the presently pending claims. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

Finally, Applicant has rewritten allowable claim 7 in independent form.

Applicant has responded to all of the rejections and objections recited in the Office Action. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance for all of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If the Examiner believes an interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Dated: 6/6/06

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Enclosure:

Copy of PTO-1449, filed November 18, 2003

Copy of the date-stamped postcard for submitted priority documents